

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following pending claims 103-116 as replacement claims for the previously-pending claims. In this Amendment, no claims have been amended, canceled or added since the last Amendment.

1– 102. (Canceled)

103. (Previously Presented) A method of making a prosthesis comprising the steps of:
extruding a thermoplastic elastomer with the aid of a blowing agent, to produce a foamed graft; and
reticulating and optionally annealing the foamed graft to effect an open-cell structure.

104. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the blowing agent comprises a physical blowing agent.

105. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the blowing agent comprises a chemical blowing agent.

106. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the blowing agent comprises physical and chemical blowing agents.

107. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises a polyurethane.

108. (Original) The method of Claim 103 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer further comprises reinforcing fibers.

109. (Original) A biosynthetic heart valve made according to the method of Claim 103.

110. (Original) A sewing ring made according to the method of Claim 103.

111. (Original) A stent made according to the method of Claim 103.

112. (Original) A vascular graft prosthesis made according to the method of Claim 103.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107, wherein the polyurethane is selected from the group consisting of Pellethane, Biomer type polyurethanes, Chronoflex, Hydrothane and combinations thereof.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 104, wherein the physical blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of chlorofluorocarbons, pentane, hexane and combinations thereof.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the chemical blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, azodicarbonamides and combinations thereof.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, comprising annealing the foamed graft to effect the open-cell structure.